

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 ACDA-07 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 AID-05
/084 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/AND/E:JAALLITTO:MMS
APPROVED BY ARA:WHLUERS
S: JCAHILL
S/S:SESTEINER
EUR/SOV:SBMCCALL
-----120256Z 017592 /72-61

O R 120216Z PEB 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY QUITO IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 032517

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: MILI, PDIP, PFOR, EC, IS, PE, UR

SUBJECT: ECUADOREAN DEMARCHE ABOUT THE ISRAELI KFIR
SALE

1. ON FEBRUARY 11 ECUADOREAN AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE YCAZA
PRESENTED HIS CREDENTIALS TO THE SECRETARY. AS YCAZA
DID SO, HE STATED THAT HE LOOKED FORWARD TO THE SUCCESS
OF HIS MISSION WITH THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION, AND HOPED
TO STRENGTHEN THE GOOD RELATIONS THAT ALREADY EXISTED
BETWEEN ECUADOR AND THE UNITED STATES.
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2. THE SECRETARY SAID THAT HE, TOO, WISHED TO STRENGTHEN
RELATIONS BETWEEN ECUADOR AND THE US, AND INTENDED TO GIVE
HIS PERSONAL ATTENTION TO THAT GOAL.

3. YCAZA THEN SAID THAT ALTHOUGH IT WAS STRICTLY A

COURTESY CALL, HE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF ECUADOR (GOE) TO GIVE THE SECRETARY A MESSAGE. HE SAID THAT HE CAME TO THE UNITED STATES AT AN INTERESTING MOMENT, AND THAT THIS WAS A DELICATE TIME. HE SAID THAT THE GOE TOOK VERY SERIOUSLY THE USG VETO OF THE ISRAELI SALE OF KFIR AIRCRAFT TO ECUADOR. HE SAID THAT THE VETO MAKES EVEN MORE CRITICAL THE ARMS IMBALANCE IN THE AREA, AND LEAVES ECUADOR NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO SEEK OTHER SOURCES OF

ARMS, INCLUDING THE SOVIET UNION. HE EMPHASIZED THAT IF THE GOE DOES GO TO THE SOVIET UNION TO BUY ARMS, THE GOE WOULD HANDLE SUCH PURCHASES AS COMMERCIAL TRANSACTION ONLY. HE SAID THAT THIS SHOWS THE GOE'S WILLINGNESS TO STRENGTHEN RELATIONS WITH THE US (SIC). HE ENDED BY SAYING THAT THE GOE HOPES THE USG UNDERSTANDS THAT THE VETO PLACES THE GOE IN AN EXTREMELY EMBARRASSING POSITION IN FRONT OF THE ECUADOREAN PEOPLE.

4. THE SECRETARY RESPONDED BY SAYING THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THE GOE'S POSITION AND WISHED TO EXPLAIN THE REASONS FOR THE USG POSITION. HE SAID THAT THE USG WAS SORRY IT COULD NOT AGREE TO THE PROPOSED ISRAELI SALE OF KFIR AIRCRAFT TO ECUADOR, BUT SUCH APPROVAL WOULD HAVE RUN COUNTER TO THE USG POLICY OF NOT SELLING ADVANCED WEAPONS, INCLUDING SOPHISTICATED FIGHTER AIRCRAFT, TO LATIN AMERICA. HE CONTINUED BY SAYING THAT IT WAS A LONGSTANDING USG POLICY, AND THAT US LAW REQUIRED THAT SUCH SALES NOT BE MADE. THEREFORE, HE SAID THAT SUCH A SALE WOULD HAVE BEEN CONTRARY TO US POLICY AND MAYBE A VIOLATION OF US LAW.

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5. THE SECRETARY CONTINUED BY APOLOGIZING FOR THE FACT THAT THE GOE HAD NOT BEEN INFORMED IN ADVANCE OF PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE OF THE USG DECISION. HE SAID THAT THE GOE SHOULD HAVE BEEN, AND THAT HE WAS SORRY THAT IT HAD NOT BEEN.

6. THE SECRETARY CONTINUED BY SAYING THAT HE APPRECIATED YCAZA'S REMARKS ABOUT THE WAY THE GOE MIGHT HANDLE FUTURE ARMS PURCHASES. HE SAID THAT HE HAD MET WITH THE PERUVIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ON FEBRUARY 10 AND HAD EXPRESSED USG CONCERN ABOUT PERU'S ACQUISITION OF HIGH-PERFORMANCE AIRCRAFT. HE CONCLUDED BY SAYING THE USG WANTED TO WORK TOGETHER WITH THE GOE TO OBVIATE THE PROBLEMS THAT EXIST BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS.

7. YCAZA REPLIED THAT THE TWO GOVERNMENTS HAVE TO WORK TOGETHER IN THIS NEW WORLD OF COMPLEX PROBLEMS. HE BELIEVED THERE WAS A COMMUNITY OF MUTUAL IDEAS THAT WOULD HELP THE TWO GOVERNMENTS TO WORK TOGETHER. HE CONCLUDED

BY SAYING THAT HE WISHED TO EMPHASIZE THE DEEP ADMIRATION THAT THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF ECUADOR HAD FOR THE US, AND HE HOPED THAT THE TWO GOVERNMENTS COULD WORK TOGETHER ON PROBLEMS NOT JUST OF TODAY BUT OF 10-50 YEARS FROM NOW.

8. THE SECRETARY RESPONDED BY SAYING THAT HE, TOO, WISHED TO SEE THE TWO GOVERNMENTS WORK TOGETHER CLOSELY. HE THOUGHT THAT MORE FREQUENT COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS WAS ONE WAY TO ACHIEVE THIS. THEREFORE, HE

SAID THAT YCAZA SHOULD FEEL FREE TO COME TO THE DEPARTMENT WHENEVER HE WISHED, AND TO FEEL FREE TO SPEAK TO THE SECRETARY WHENEVER YCAZA FELT IT NECESSARY. HE CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT HE LOOKED FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YCAZA AND TO IMPROVING RELATIONS BETWEEN ECUADOR AND THE U.S.

9. COMMENT: YCAZA PRESENTED THE DEMARCHE IN A DIPLOMATIC BUT FORCEFUL MANNER, LEAVING NO DOUBT ABOUT CONFIDENTIAL

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THE SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH THE GOE TAKES THE USG DECISION, BUT ALSO LEAVING THE IMPRESSION THAT THE GOE WANTS TO CONTINUE TO HAVE GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. HE DID NOT ASK FOR MORE ASSISTANCE FROM THE USG, AND RAISED NO OTHER ISSUES. THE SECRETARY RAISED NO ISSUES.

10. ACTION: DEPARTMENT OFFICERS DIFFER ON THE QUESTION OF THE GOE'S SERIOUSNESS ABOUT TURNING TO THE SOVIET UNION FOR ARMS, AND WOULD APPRECIATE THE ASSESSMENT OF EMBASSY QUITO, PLUS WHATEVER THOUGHTS EMBASSY MOSCOW MIGHT HAVE.
VANCE

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Executive Order: GS
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